(ii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding.

(iii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

(iv) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units.

(v) Harnessing surplus captive power into the grid.

(vi) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission systems in States under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major steps towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses.

(vii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

(viii) Strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.

(ix) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(x) Monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal to review and resolve the constraints.

(xi) Monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal to review and resolve constraints.

(xii) Import of power from Bhutan.

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Programme

*142. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme;

(b) to what extent INSPIRE helps in producing more and more science students and stopping exodus of scientists from Indian scientific institutions;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there has been a fall in the rate of Ph.D. students in the country over the last few years; and

(d) if so, to what extent INSPIRE helps students to take up research?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Government of India has mounted a special scholarship scheme titled "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" to attract talented youth to study and careers with science. INSPIRE aims at building innovative knowledge infrastructure by conversion of comparative strength of India by virtue of its demography and inherited knowledge systems into competitive advantage. The main features of the INSPIRE are:

(a) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS) providing Science innovation scholarship of Rs. 5000 for a total of one million young learners of the age group 10—15 years once in their school career and mentorship through global science leaders including Nobel laureates and Indian leaders in science at a summer camp for the top 1% performers in the Class X examination every year for a period of five years; (b) Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) for the age group of 17—22 years @ Rs. 1 lakh per year for continuing science education at B.Sc. and M.Sc. levels for 10,000 candidates; and (c) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) for 1000 young researchers in the age group of 22—32 years for 5 years to pursue doctoral research in science backed by an assured research career opportunity scheme for another period of five years on completion of their Ph.D.

The rate of enrollment of students in Ph.D. programmes has increased during the last few years in various disciplines including Science & Technology. The INSPIRE Programme, as it offers Science as a career option by providing necessary opportunities to youth with aptitude for science and a desire to innovate, in addition to reasonable financial assistance, would help in producing more science students and Ph.Ds and help in increasing the stock of the scientific community necessary for meeting future challenges and also help in stopping exodus of scientists from Indian scientific institutions.

Encouragement to wind, solar and hybrid system

*143. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourages proposals for wind, solar and hybrid systems for un electrified villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) how much funds have been released for such activities by Government to different States, during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is encouraging promotion of renewable energy devices, including solar, wind and hybrid systems in the country, as a whole, including in un-electrified villages under various programmes. Under the remote Village Electrification Programme, Central Financial Assistance of up to 90% of the cost, subject to pre-specified maximum amount for each technology, is provided for projects for remote Villages/hamlets, which are identified by the Rural Electrification Corporation for coverage through renewable energy sources. Such villages are provided basic facilities for lighting/electricity through various renewable energy sources, mostly solar energy. Under the Solar Photovoltaic Programme, various solar energy devices and systems/ such as, solar lanterns, solar home systems, solar street lighting systems, stand-along solar power plants and solar pumps are promoted in rural areas including un-electrified villages. The eligibility criteria and quantum of financial support are different for different devices. Under a separate programme namely, Small Wind Energy and Hybrid Systems, water pumping wind mills and wind-solar hybrid systems for generation of electricity in off-grid mode are promoted. The programme provides for Central Financial Assistance varying from 50% to 90% of the cost of the systems, limited to maximum